

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An insertion plate, comprising:

a base having a perimeter;

a first mounting element of the base operable to engage a first mounting hole of a first member of a two-piece intervertebral disc replacement device, the first member including a first bone screw hole;

a second mounting element of the base operable to engage a second mounting hole of a second member of the intervertebral disc replacement device, the second member including a second bone screw hole, wherein the perimeter does not extend over the first and second bone screw holes when the first and second mounting elements cooperate to engage and orient the first and second members of the two-piece intervertebral disc replacement device for simultaneous insertion into an intervertebral disc space of a spinal column; and

a stem extending away from an anteriorly directed surface of the base and operable to facilitate movement of the intervertebral disc replacement device and insertion thereof into the intervertebral disc space such that the first and second members may be at least one of inserted into and moved within the intervertebral disc space without substantially changing their orientation with respect to one another, the stem being sized and shaped for engagement with an insertion handle to further facilitate movement of the intervertebral disc replacement device, wherein one of the stem and the insertion handle includes a bore and the other of the stem and the insertion handle includes a tapered shaft that frictionally engages the bore to facilitate detachable engagement with one another.

intervertebral disc space without substantially changing their orientation with respect to one another.

6. (previously presented) The insertion plate of claim 5, wherein the ledge member includes first and second spaced apart surfaces, at least one of the first and second spaced apart surfaces of the ledge member being contoured for engagement with respective surfaces of the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device, the first surface of the ledge member being curved and the second surface of the ledge member being flat.

7. (currently amended) The insertion plate of claim 5, wherein at least one of:

each of the first and second mounting elements includes a flange having a mounting hole therethrough, the mounting holes for receiving respective fasteners to couple the flanges to respective ones of the first and second mounting holes of the first and second members of the intervertebral disc replacement device;

the mounting holes are oriented in a direction substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the spinal column; and

the ledge member extends in a direction along the posteriorly directed surface of the base that is substantially transverse with respect to the longitudinal axis of the spinal column.

Claims 8-12 (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The insertion plate of claim 1, wherein the base is operable to detachably engage the first mounting hole on a flange of the first member of the intervertebral disc replacement device, and to detachably engage

